

Message Text

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14-11

ORIGIN OES-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSF-02 AGR-10 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 EA-10 FRB-01 INR-07 IO-10

NEA-10 NSAE-00 OPIC-06 SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-04

SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 /100 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/RPE:D.LAMB/OES/SCI/BMP:PHMILY:

APPROVED BY OES:GGRANT

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R 091720Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION OECD PARIS

ALL OECD CAPITALS

UNCLAS STATE 133814

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, EPAP, OECD

SUBJECT: OECD SCIENCE MINISTERIAL MEETING, JUNE 24-25, 1975-
US PROPOSAL FOR OECD FOOD INITIATIVE

REF: USOECD 12722

1. US DELEGATE TO SUBJECT MEETING WILL INTRODUCE
MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION ON SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA ITEM ENTITLED
"NEW VISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES", PARA 3 OF REFTEL. AT
THAT TIME HE PLANS TO DISCUSS NEED WE PERCEIVE FOR
INTENSIFIED OECD COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
AIMED AT STRENGTHENING MEMBER COUNTRY PERFORMANCE IN FOOD
PRODUCTION AND DELIVERY, AS WELL AS ENCOURAGING OECD
MEMBER COUNTRIES TO ASSUME THEIR SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES
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FOR DEALING WITH THE WORLD FOOD PROBLEM. IN KEEPING WITH
AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE ADVANCE NOTICE TO MEMBER COUNTRIES
OF POSSIBLE INITIATIVES, PARA 6 OF REFTEL, ACTION POSTS
ARE REQUESTED TO PROVIDE DISCUSSION PAPER IN PARA 2,

BELOW, TO APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS IN MINISTRIES FOR SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY (SEE ADDRESSEES IN PARA 4, BELOW).

2. U.S. PROPOSAL

-- SUBMITTED TO JUNE 24-25, 1975 MEETING OF COMMITTEE FOR
- SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL POLICY AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL

--- OECD FOOD INITIATIVE

ISSUE:

-- THE OECD SHOULD TAKE STEPS TO PROMOTE ENHANCED AND
INTENSIFIED COOPERATION AND COORDINATION IN AGRICULTURAL
RESEARCH AMONG ITS MEMBERS SO AS TO STRENGTHEN THEIR
PERFORMANCE IN FOOD PRODUCTION AND DELIVERY, ENSURE
MORE EFFICIENT UTILIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT, AND
PROVIDE INCREASED ASSISTANCE TO MEETING THE NEEDS OF
THE DEVELOPING NATIONS.

DISCUSSION:

-- THE RELEVANCE OF THIS ISSUE IS ESTABLISHED BY THE
IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE TO THE ECONOMIES OF THE OECD
MEMBER NATIONS AND OF ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF FOOD AT
REASONABLE PRICES TO THEIR CITIZENS AS WELL AS BY THE
SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY THE ADVANCED COUNTRIES HAVE FOR
DEALING WITH THE WORLD FOOD PROBLEM AND FOR IMPLEMENTING
THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE.

-- THE INTERACTIONS AMONG THE OECD MEMBERS IN AGRI-
CULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ARE AT BEST MODEST.
THE OECD COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE ARRANGES A MEETING OF
DIRECTORS OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH EVERY THIRD YEAR. ON
AN EPISODIC BASIS, THERE ARE SEVERAL BILATERAL ARRANGE-
MENTS FOR COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AMONG
NATIONS WHO ARE OECD MEMBERS. BUT THE ABSENCE OF ORGANIZED
AND SYSTEMATIC PROVISION FOR CONTINUING COORDINATION
AND COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IS NOTEWORTHY.
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-- IN LIGHT OF THE IMPORTANCE OF SUCH RESEARCH TO THEIR
OWN ECONOMIES AND TO THE PROBLEMS OF GLOBAL FOOD SUPPLY
AND NUTRITION, IT IS TIMELY THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN
TO FILL THIS GAP. IT IS THEREFORE PROPOSED THAT THE
OECD CONSIDER THE INITIATION OF CONSULTATIONS DESIGNED
TO STIMULATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF COLLABORATIVE MECHANISMS
INVOLVING THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTI-
TUTIONS OR AGENCIES OF ITS MEMBER NATIONS.

-- THE OBJECTIVE OF SUCH CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE TO
BRING TOGETHER THE LEADERS OF THE APPROPRIATE NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS, TOGETHER WITH KEY
MEMBERS OF THEIR STAFFS, TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION

ON RESEARCH IN PROGRESS AND DISCUSS THE DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATIVE RESEARCH THAT MIGHT ENTAIL INITIALLY:

- AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON CURRENT FOOD PRO-
DUCTION AND ASSOCIATED RESEARCH;
- DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMON INVENTORY OF RESEARCH
FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT, AND SPECIALIZED EXPERTISE
THAT MIGHT BE SHARED IN MEETING RESEARCH OBJECTIVES;
- EXCHANGE OF TECHNIQUES, AND UNDER SPECIAL CIRCUM-
STANCES, SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS TO STRENGTHEN
RESEARCH PROGRAMS;
- JOINT PRIORITY SETTING AS A MEANS OF ASSISTING IN
MAXIMIZING THE RESOURCES OF INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH
GROUPS WITHIN THE COALITION;
- INITIATION OF COOPERATIVE EFFORTS TO ENHANCE THE
EFFECTIVENESS OF THE OVERALL RESEARCH PROGRAMS.
- SUBSEQUENTLY, IT MAY PROVE DESIRABLE TO PROCEED TO
SPECIFIC COOPERATIVE OR COORDINATED MULTILATERAL RESEARCH
UNDERTAKINGS RELATING TO INDIVIDUAL CROPS, AGRICULTURAL
PROCESSES, NUTRITIONAL VALUES, PRESERVATION, ETC.
- AS A FIRST STEP, THE THIRD WORKING CONFERENCE OF
DIRECTORS OF AGRICULTURE OF OECD COUNTRIES, SCHEDULED
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TO MEET IN DECEMBER 1975, COULD CONSIDER THE DESIRABILITY OF DEVELOPING MORE FORMAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR FURTHER COOPERATION.

- THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS PROPOSAL WOULD BE MANAGED
BY THE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRY DIRECTORATE IN
COLLABORATION WITH THE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD, DAC, AND
DEVELOPMENT CENTER SECRETARIATS, THE FAO, AND OTHER
COMPETENT MULTILATERAL BODIES.

ACTION AT OECD SCIENCE MINISTER'S MEETING:

- IT IS PROPOSED THAT THE SCIENCE MINISTERS AGREE:
- THAT OECD MEMBER AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY WOULD
BE ENHANCED BY AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND THE
STRENGTHENING OF COOPERATIVE RESEARCH;
- THAT THE MEETING OF DIRECTORS OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
OF OECD MEMBER COUNTRIES CONSIDER COLLABORATIVE
MECHANISMS FOR COOPERATING IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH;
- THAT A REPORT OF THE INFORMAL MEETING BE SUBMITTED

-- TO CSTP AND OTHER INTERESTED OECD COMMITTEES.

3. FOR USOECD.

-- A. PLEASE PROVIDE DSTI DIRECTOR GENERAL OSHIMA WITH

TEXT OF US PAPER AND FACT THIS PROPOSAL BEING TRANSMITTED
TO CST OFFICIALS IN MEMBER COUNTRY CAPITALS.

-- B. PLEASE INFORM AGRICULTURE AND FOOD DIRECTORATE
OF US PROPOSAL AND PROVIDE US EXPERTS TO JUNE 11-12
PREPARATORY MEETING FOR 3RD WORKING CONFERENCE OF
DIRECTORS OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH WITH TEXT OF PROPOSAL.
HOWEVER, US PROPOSAL SHOULD NOT BE DISTRIBUTED TO
EXPERT GROUP. US REPS MAY NOTE, AS MAY BE APPROPRIATE,
US PLAN TO PRESENT PROPOSAL TO SCIENCE MINISTERS ALONG
LINES NOTED IN PARA 1, ABOVE.

4. FOR OECD CAPITALS. THE FOLLOWING ADDRESSES MAY BE
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USED IN TRANSMITTING TEXT IN PARA 2, ABOVE:

BONN, SCHEIDEMANN, MINISTRY OF RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

BRUSSELS, STENMANS, SCIENCE POLICY AND PROGRAMMING SERVICE

CANBERRA, RAINBIRD, DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE

VIENNA, R. BURGER, MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

OTTAWA, TREMBLAY, MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

COPENHAGEN, J. KNUDSEN, FORSKNINGSSEKRETARIATET

MADRID, E. LARROQUE, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

HELSINKI, M. LINNA, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

ATHENS, MRS. EVANGELIDOU-TSOLI, MINISTRY OF CULTURE
- AND SCIENCE

DUBLIN, D. MURPHY, NATIONAL SCIENCE COUNCIL

REYKJAVIK, S. HERMANNSSON, NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

ROME, R. LEVI, MINISTRY OF RESEARCH

TOKYO, NAGASAWA, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGENCY

LUXEMBOURG, N. WEBER, MINISTRY OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

THE HAGUE, BOTTCHER, ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE POLICY

LISBON, J. PINTO PEIXOTO, FACULTY OF SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY
-OF LISBON

LONDON, P. OOGERS, DEPT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCES

STOCKHOLM, A. ENGSTROM, RESEARCH ADVISORY BOARD

BERN, U. HOCHSTRASSER, DEPT OF INTERIOR
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BELGRADE, E. PETRIC, UNIVERSITY OF LJUBLJANA. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, NATURAL RESOURCES, POLICIES, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE133814
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/RPE:D.LAMB/OES/SCI/BMP:PHEMILY:
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750201-0667
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197506100/baaaambv.tel
Line Count: 233
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAR 2003 by PhilliR0>; APPROVED <18 FEB 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: TGEN, EPAP, OECD
To: OECD PARIS
ALL OECD CAPITALS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006